

Pacific Northwest residents are told to stay off the roads as ice coats the region

By **CLAIRE RUSH**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An ice storm threatened to topple towering trees onto power lines and turned mountain highways treacherous Wednesday in the Pacific Northwest, where residents were urged to avoid travel.

Around Portland, Oregon, long icicles dangled from roofs and cars, and ice encased branches, plants and leaves like thick glass.

Swaths of the area were under warnings Wednesday for as much as an inch of ice, promising only to add to the damage wrought by a powerful storm that hit over the weekend and was blamed for at least seven deaths. The warning area was reduced to parts of southwest Washington and northwest Oregon, including Portland, a metro area of over 2 million.

Schools and government buildings closed as authorities warned of icy roads and the chance of new power outages, even as crews struggled to restore electricity to thousands blacked out for days.



Patrick Sahr shovels snow in Buffalo, N.Y., Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024.

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Pacific Northwest residents are told to stay off the roads as ice coats the region

Continued from Front

The storm canceled or delayed flights, including in Vancouver, British Columbia, where heavy snow blanketed the city and snarled traffic, The Canadian Press reported. The city could get nearly 8 inches (20 centimeters) of snow by the evening. The storm hit the northwest corner of the U.S. as much of the rest of the country coped with bitter weather that in some places put electricity supplies at risk. More than 100,000 homes and businesses — mostly in Oregon — lost power across the country, according to PowerOutage.us. Customers in Texas and California also lacked electricity.

Freezing temperatures spread as far south as North Florida on Wednesday morning, said Bob Oravec, a National Weather Service forecaster. It was 12 degrees (minus 11.1 Celsius) early Wednesday in Atlanta, where thousands of students returned to school after icy weather Tuesday.

It was 5 degrees in Chicago (minus 15 Celsius) and 6 degrees (minus 14.4 Celsius) in Detroit — significantly colder than Alaska's capital of Juneau, where it was 18 degrees (minus 7.8 Celsius). Some Midwesterners managed to find a bright side. "It's probably the most beautiful time in Chicago,



Visitors pose for a photo in front of the Washington Monument on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, in Washington.

ever," Richard Wineberg said as he admired the snow-covered landscape. New York and Philadelphia ended a drought of sorts, with snow falling in both cities. Five people were struck and killed by a tractor-trailer on Interstate 81 in northeastern Pennsylvania after they left their vehicles following a separate crash on slick pavement. Investigators were still determining the exact cause. In western New York, the weather was blamed for three deaths in three days. Two people were apparently stricken while clearing

snow, and a third was struck by a vehicle while brushing snow from his car, Erie County officials said Wednesday. Heavy lake-effect snow was forecast in Buffalo, with up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) an hour expected through the afternoon. City hall was closed, school districts declared snow days, and travel bans were issued for several suburbs. The blast came days after a storm that delayed an NFL playoff game for a day.

Early Wednesday, Patrick Sahr shoveled snow from his car and driveway in Buffalo after at least 18 inches

(45.7 centimeters) of snow fell overnight — on top of 3 feet (1 meter) over the weekend.

"I just want to keep up with it," he said during a lull.

On the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation near Fort Thompson, South Dakota, about three dozen people stayed in a shelter and the tribe paid to put up about 40 families in a motel. The tribe also provided propane and wood for home heating, and plastic to cover drafty windows, for what tribal Chairman Peter Lengkeek called "substandard government homes."

Associated Press

It's expensive, but "you can't put a price on life and suffering," Lengkeek said.

In Tennessee, health officials have confirmed at least six weather-related deaths.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, which provides electricity to seven Southern states, reported a preliminary all-time record for peak power demand Wednesday morning as the region dropped to an average of 4 degrees (minus 15.5 Celsius), leading to a brief call, later lifted, for customers to cut back on usage.

The power grid operator in Texas also pleaded with customers to limit power use.

In Oregon, officials closed 47 miles (76 kilometers) of Interstate 84, a major east-west highway, because of the threat of ice.

The Pacific Northwest is more known for rain and was not set to experience such arctic temperatures, but the heavily forested region is especially prone to the danger of falling trees and power lines, particularly during freezing rain, or ice, storms.

Ice storms occur as freezing rain results in dangerous accumulations of ice. Freezing rain falls as water but freezes when it hits roads and other cold surfaces. It can weigh down trees and power lines, making them heavier and likelier to snap, especially in strong winds. □



Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, right, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, left, both speaking at the at the CNN Republican presidential debate at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024.

Associated Press

By MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — An-

other Republican presidential debate has been canceled after Nikki Haley's

Another Republican debate is canceled after Haley says she'll only participate if Trump does, too

refusal to participate in any forum that doesn't also include former President Donald Trump, meaning that for the first time in years there will not be an on-the-ground face-off ahead of New Hampshire's primary next week.

CNN announced Wednesday that it was calling off its debate, which had been scheduled for Sunday at New England College. That comes a day after ABC

and WMUR-TV said they were also canceling Thursday's debate, planned at Saint Anselm College, following Haley's assertion that the next debate in which she participates "will either be with Donald Trump or Joe Biden."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis had committed to take part in both debates, but with front-runner Trump having skipped all of the GOP debates thus far,

Haley's participation had been the deciding factor in whether they would go on. The move by the former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador could be in part a result of the last debate, which featured only Haley and DeSantis. Haley didn't perform as well as expected, and DeSantis ultimately ended up beating her for second place in Monday's lead-off Iowa caucuses. □

The Pentagon will install rooftop solar panels as Biden pushes clean energy in federal buildings

By **MATTHEW DALY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department will install solar panels on the Pentagon, part of the Biden administration's plan to promote clean energy and "reestablish the federal government as a sustainability leader."

The Pentagon is one of 31 government sites that are receiving \$104 million in Energy Department grants that are expected to double the amount of carbon-free electricity at federal facilities and create 27 megawatts of clean-energy capacity while leveraging more than \$361 million in private investment, the Energy Department said.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks and Brenda Mallory, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, announced the projects Wednesday at the Pentagon.

The solar panels are among



The Pentagon in Washington, March 27, 2008.

several improvements set for the Pentagon, which also will install a heat pump system and solar thermal panels to reduce reliance on natural gas and fuel oil combustion systems

Brendan Owens, assistant secretary of Defense for energy, installations and environment, said the proj-

ects will improve energy resilience and reliability at the Pentagon and other military sites in the U.S. and Germany. He called energy use "central to everything we do."

Solar panels will provide "an uninterrupted power source" at the Pentagon in case of a cyberattack

or other outage to the bulk grid, as well as reduce strain on the building's power load, Owens said in an interview.

Because of the Pentagon's "relatively congested air space" outside Washington, solar panels were the best option for clean energy, he said. The building is

Associated Press

a nationally registered historic landmark, so officials will work with local officials to ensure the panels meet all requirements.

The grant program also includes energy upgrades at Naval bases in Georgia and Washington state, as well as the Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Tennessee.

In addition to the Defense Department, projects also include installation of thermally efficient windows at the Energy Department headquarters in Washington, as well as efficiency upgrades to the Commerce and Transportation departments.

Other agencies selected for projects include the Interior and Veterans Affairs departments, as well as the General Services Administration, Office of Personnel Management and Social Security Administration.

The program also will make the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii a net-zero emissions facility. □

Vice President Harris says she's 'scared as heck' that Donald Trump could win

By **CHRIS MEGERIAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris said she's "scared as heck" that Donald Trump could win another term as president as she pledged an aggressive campaign to make sure that doesn't happen.

She made the comments Wednesday on ABC's "The View" in response to a question from Joy Behar, one of the show's hosts. Behar cited reports that other top Democrats including former President Barack Obama and Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina are concerned about President Joe Biden's reelection campaign.

Asked if she was scared about the potential of another Trump presidency,

Harris said: "I am scared as heck! Which is why I'm traveling our country. You know, there's an old saying that there's only two ways to run for office either without an opponent

or scared. So on all of those points, yes, we should all be scared." Harris said the fear should serve as motivation for the campaign ahead.

"When we are scared for the future of our children,

do we then stay in bed with the covers over?" she said. "No, we can't."

Harris added, "We've got to earn reelection. There is no question. We've got to be on the road."

The vice president is scheduled to begin a series of events focused on abortion in Wisconsin, a key battleground state. Events will begin Monday, the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that protected the right to an abortion.

The court's conservative majority overturned the nationwide right to abortion in 2022, a significant defeat for Democrats but one that has also motivated the party's voters.

"In this year of our Lord 2024, the government should not be telling women what to

do with their bodies, and so it's that basic," Harris said.

Alyssa Griffin, a former Trump communications aide who has become a critic of the former president, pressed Harris on why Biden has fallen short of his predecessor in some polls.

"What does it say that the party is struggling to compete with an unfit man who is very likely going to jail?" asked Griffin, who is another host of "The View."

Harris suggested that voters haven't been paying attention to politics and are now "beginning to narrow in on what this election will mean."

She described a choice between "competence versus chaos," as well as a battle for the future of American democracy. □



Vice President Kamala Harris, center, speaks at Eastway Middle School, Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C. Harris visited Charlotte to highlight the Biden-Harris Administration latest actions to reduce gun violence.

Associated Press

U.S. woman gets 26 years in prison for helping kill her mother in Bali and stuffing body in a suitcase

By **CLAIRE SAVAGE**

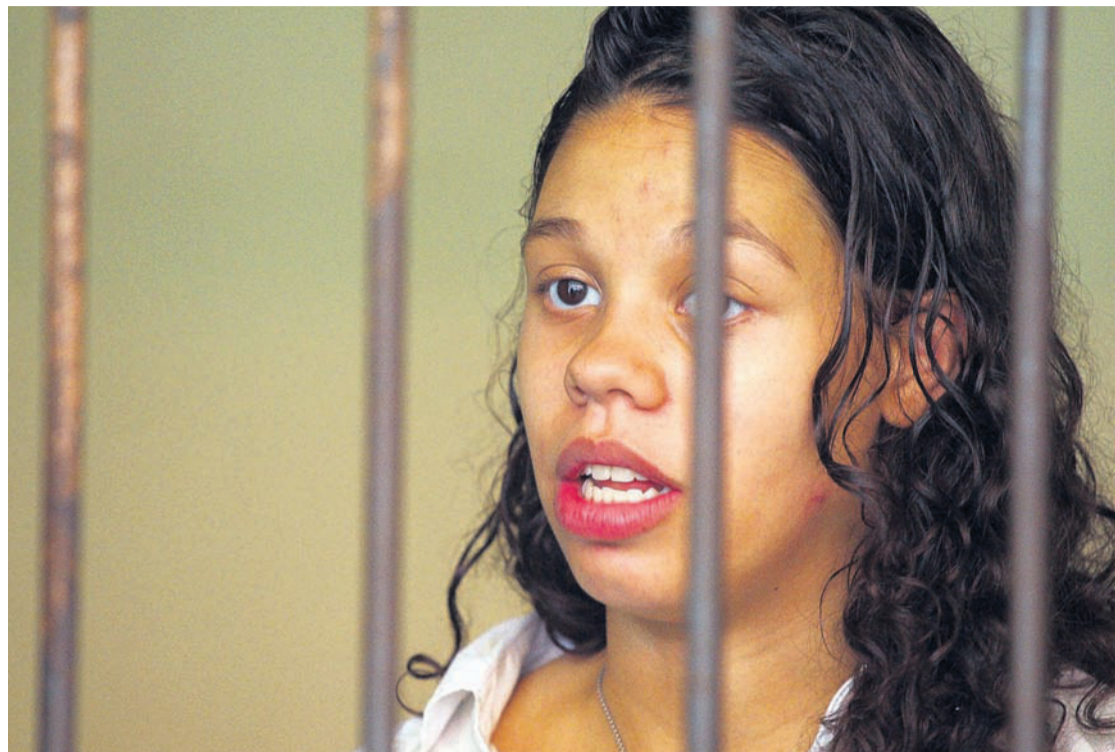
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — An American woman who pleaded guilty to helping kill her own mother and stuffing the body in a suitcase during a luxury vacation in Bali was sentenced Wednesday in Chicago to 26 years in prison.

Federal prosecutors had recommended a 28-year prison sentence for Heather Mack for conspiring with her boyfriend to kill Sheila von Wiese-Mack in 2014.

Mack's attorney Michael Leonard said he expects Mack, 28, will be locked up for roughly 20 years including good behavior credits available to all federal prisoners. His estimate also accounts for the judge giving Mack credit for the two-plus years she spent in custody in Chicago after completing a jail term in Indonesia. She was deported to the U.S. in 2021.

Before her sentence was read, Mack apologized to her mother's brother and



Heather Mack from Chicago, Ill., stands inside a cell before a trial in Bali, Indonesia, Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

sister through tears. "It breaks my heart hearing you cry," she told Debbi Curran, her aunt and Wiese-Mack's sister, who had audibly sobbed as her daughter read a victim impact statement on Curran's behalf.

"There's no excuse for trying to harm her," Mack said. "I miss and love my mother."

The government also wanted Mack to get five years of supervised release, a \$250,000 fine and restitution of \$262,708. In a filing

last week, prosecutors said the recommended sentence was "warranted and sufficient, but not greater than necessary to serve a just and appropriate punishment for Mack's heinous crime."

The sentencing hearing

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began Wednesday morning with testimony from Bill Wiese, Wiese-Mack's brother and Mack's uncle. He asked Judge Matthew Kennelly to impose the maximum sentence possible, saying Mack has never shown remorse.

"If it were up to me, Heather would spend the rest of her life behind bars," Wiese said.

Mack, who wore an orange jumpsuit, orange slip-on shoes and glasses, remained mostly impassive as her uncle spoke, occasionally looking at attendees and giving small smiles to some.

Mack pleaded guilty last June to one count of conspiring to kill von Wiese-Mack with her then-boyfriend to gain access to a \$1.5 million trust fund. Prosecutors have said Mack, then 18 and pregnant, covered her mother's mouth while Tommy Schaefer bludgeoned Wiese-Mack with a fruit bowl in a hotel room. □

Billionaire backers of new California city reveal map and details of proposed development

By **JANIE HAR**

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The company backed by Silicon Valley billionaires that for years stealthily snapped up more than \$800 million worth of rural land for a new walkable, affordable and green city between San Francisco and Sacramento now needs voters to embrace the idea.

Jan Sramek, the former Goldman Sachs trader spearheading the effort, will speak Wednesday about his plans to create a walkable California city flush with affordable housing and jobs on what's now mostly farmland. His California Forever company needs approval from Solano County voters to bypass protections put in place in 1984 to keep agricultural

land from being turned into urban space.

He'll reveal ballot language that will provide the most detailed look yet of the community envisioned by he and his billionaire

backers, like philanthropist Laurene Powell Jobs, LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman, and venture capitalist Marc Andreessen. If the group can secure 13,000 signatures from Solano

County voters, the measure will go before voters this November.

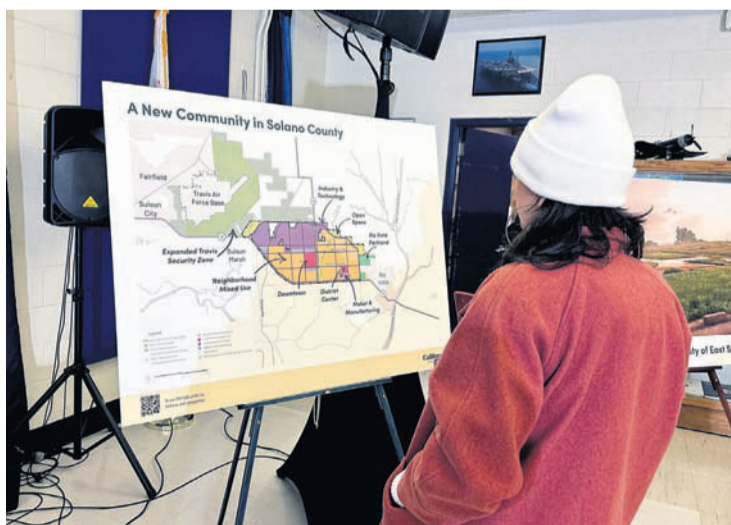
They picture 20,000 homes for 50,000 residents between Travis Air Force Base and the tiny city of Rio Vista, with rowhouses and apartment buildings within walking distance to jobs, schools, bars, restaurants and grocery stores. Eventually the city could grow to 400,000 people, the group says, but only if it can create at least 15,000 jobs that pay above average wages.

Created in 2017, California Forever has purchased more than 78 square miles (202 square kilometers) of farmland in Solano County. The plan calls for \$400 million to help Solano County residents buy homes in the proposed community.

Sramek made his pitch in a series of December town halls around the county, but the new wave of transparency has not quieted critics who have been skeptical of the project since the mysterious land-buying spree began years ago.

"This is a pipe dream," said Democratic U.S. Rep. John Garamendi, who was furious with backers for their secrecy about property close to a U.S. Air Force base.

He said the proposed development, which he also was briefed on, makes no sense "in the middle of areas surrounded by wind farms, gas fields, endangered species, no water, no sanitation system and no road system let alone a highway system." □



A map of a new proposed community in Solano County, California is displayed during news conference in Rio Vista, Calif. on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024.

Associated Press

Immigration issue challenges delicate talks to form new Dutch government

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Delicate talks to create a new Dutch government around anti-Islam firebrand Geert Wilders suffered a setback Wednesday when a lingering immigration issue divided the parties involved in brokering a coalition.

"We have a problem," Wilders told reporters in The Hague, the morning after a decision by senators from a key Dutch political party involved in the coalition talks to back legislation that could force municipalities to house asylum-seekers.

People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) senators threw their support behind the proposal Tuesday night. The lower house of parliament already has approved the plan, known as the "Distribution Law," that aims to more fairly spread thousands of asylum-seekers around the country. Wilders strongly opposes it.

Wilders' Party for Freedom, or PVV, won the most seats in the election, putting him



Geert Wilders, leader of the Party for Freedom, known as PVV, casts his ballot in The Hague, Netherlands, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023.

in the driving seat to form a new coalition after four previous administrations led by outgoing VVD leader Mark Rutte.

Having Wilders in government would reinforce the far right in the European Union, where Giorgia Meloni is already leading the

Italian government.

The VVD senators' decision came despite opposition from the party's new leader Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius a former asylum-seeker who is in talks with Wilders and two other party leaders about the contours of a new coalition after Wilders'

Nov. 22 general election victory.

Wilders campaigned on pledges to drastically rein in immigration and he has long been an outspoken critic of the legislation that now looks set to be approved in a Senate vote next week. Yeşilgöz-

Zegerius and the two other leaders involved in the closed-door coalition negotiations also oppose the legislation that was drawn up by a junior minister from Yeşilgöz-Zegerius' VVD.

The legislation aims to push municipalities across the Netherlands to provide temporary accommodation for asylum seekers who have a strong chance of being granted refugee status. At the moment, many municipalities refuse to make space available. That has led to a crisis in existing asylum-seeker centers, most notably in the northern town of Ter Apel, where hundreds of new arrivals were forced to sleep outside a reception center in the summer of 2022 because of overcrowding.

Yeşilgöz-Zegerius has said she does not want her party to be in a coalition with Wilders' PVV, but is willing to support a Wilders-led government. The other two parties involved in the talks are the reformist New Social Contract and the Farmers Citizens Movement. □

Associated Press

2.7 million Zimbabweans need food aid as El Nino compounds a drought crisis, U.N. food program says

By FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

— The U.N. World Food Program said Wednesday that it was working with Zimbabwe's government and aid agencies to provide food to 2.7 million rural people in the country as the El Nino weather phenomenon contributes to a drought crisis in southern Africa.

Food shortages putting nearly 20% of Zimbabwe's population at risk of hunger have been caused by poor harvests in drought-ravaged areas where people rely on small-scale farming to eat. El Nino is expected to compound that by causing below-average rainfall again this year, said Francesca Erdelmann, WFP country director for Zimba-

bwe.

El Nino is a natural and recurring weather phenomenon that warms parts of the Pacific, affecting weather patterns around the world. It has different impacts in different regions.

When rains fail or come late, it has a significant impact, Erdelmann told a news conference.

January to March is referred to as the lean season in Zimbabwe, when rural households run out of food while waiting for the next harvest.

More than 60% of Zimbabwe's 15 million people live in rural areas. Their life is increasingly affected by a cycle of drought and floods aggravated by climate change.

Dry spells are becoming

longer and more severe. For decades, Zimbabwe's rainy season reliably ran from October to March. It has become erratic in recent years, sometimes starting only in December and ending sooner.

Once an exporter of food, Zimbabwe has relied heavily on assistance from donors to feed its people in recent years. Agricultural production also fell sharply after the seizures of white-owned farms under former President Robert Mugabe starting in 2000 but had begun to recover.

The United States Agency for International Development, the U.S. government's foreign aid agency, has estimated through its Famine Early Warning Systems Network that 20 mil-

lion people in southern Africa will need food relief between January and March. Many people in the areas of highest concern such as Zimbabwe, southern

Malawi, parts of Mozambique and southern Madagascar will be unable to feed themselves into early 2025 due to El Nino, USAID said. □



Officials from USAID and WFP inspect a donation of \$11 million worth of food aid at a ceremony in Harare, Zimbabwe, Wednesday, Jan 17, 2024.

Associated Press

China's population falls for a 2nd straight year as births drop even after end of one-child policy

By **KEN MORITSUGU**
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's population fell by 2 million people in 2023 in its second straight annual decrease, as births dropped for the seventh straight year and deaths jumped following the end of COVID-19 restrictions, the government said Wednesday.

The number of deaths rose by 690,000 to 11.1 million, more than double the previous year's increase. Demographers said the rise was driven by the aging of the population and the widespread COVID-19 outbreaks that started in December 2022 and continued into February of last year.

The total population stood at 1.4 billion, the statistics bureau said. China, long the most populated country in the world, dropped into second place behind India in 2023, according to U.N. estimates.

The falling births reflect a decline in the fertility rate that is a long-term economic and societal challenge for China. Women are having fewer babies despite government incentives and the easing of its one-child policy in recent



A man carries a child at a shopping mall in Beijing, Dec. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

years to allow up to three children.

The lower fertility rate, together with people living longer because of better health care, means China is slowly growing older, something that could slow economic growth over time and challenge the government's finances and its ability to provide for a larger elderly population with fewer workers.

Experts expect the population decline to continue for decades, even if the fertility rate rebounds.

Demographer Zuo Xuejin, former executive vice president of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences., estimated that the proportion of the population that is 65 or older could double to more than 30% by 2050.

The government issued guidelines earlier this week on developing the "silver" economy and enhancing the well-being of older people. They included expanding geriatric hospital and nursing care, encouraging the development of

clothing, food and other products suitable for older people, cracking down on scams that target the elderly and making it easier to operate a TV.

The number of births fell by 540,000, or 5.6%, which was smaller than the double-digit percent drops the previous three years. The 9 million babies born in 2023 were less than half the total in 2016. All the figures are estimates based on surveys and do not include Hong Kong and Macao. China conducts a full census ev-

ery 10 years.

China, which once sought to control population growth with its one-child policy, is now facing the opposite problem. The government has sought to encourage births since gradually easing the policy over 2014 to 2016 to allow a second child and then a third child in 2021, but with little success.

Many people are delaying marriage or choosing not to have children. Even those who do often have only one child because of the high cost of educating children in cities in a highly competitive academic environment. The population of women of child-bearing age has also fallen.

Local governments are offering incentives for new children.

A municipality in China's Inner Mongolia region has started offering payments of 2,000 yuan (\$280) for a second child and 5,000 yuan (\$700) for a third, as well as requiring that employers give an extra 60 and 90 days of paid maternity leave for the second and third child respectively, according to an online report by state-owned China National Radio. □

New doctrine in Russia ally Belarus for the first time provides for using nuclear weapons

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — The defense minister of Belarus said Tuesday that the country closely allied with Russia will put forth a new military doctrine that for the first time provides for the use of nuclear weapons.

Russia last year sent tactical nuclear weapons to be stationed in Belarus, although there are no details about how many. Russia has said it will maintain control over those weapons, which are intended for battlefield use and have short ranges and comparatively low yields.

It was not immediately clear how the new doctrine might be applied to the Russian weapons.

"We clearly communicate Belarus' views on the use of



Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, left, and Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin exchange documents during a meeting after a session of the Council of Defense Ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in Minsk, Belarus, on May 25, 2023.

Associated Press

tactical nuclear weapons stationed on our territory," Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin said at a meeting of Belarus' Security Council. "A new chapter has appeared, where we clearly define our allied obligations to our allies."

The doctrine is to be presented for approval to the All-Belarusian People's Assembly, a representative body that operates in Belarus in parallel with the parliament.

Belarus had both tactical and long-range nuclear weapons when it was part of the Soviet Union, but transferred them to Russia after the USSR's collapse.

Russia used Belarus territory as a springboard to send its troops into Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and has maintained its military bases and weapons there, although Belarusian troops have not taken part in the war.

Security Council Secretary Alexander Volfovich said that the deployment of Russian nuclear weapons in Belarus is intended to deter aggression from Poland, a NATO member.

"Unfortunately, statements by our neighbors, in particular Poland ... forced us to strengthen" the military doctrine, he said. □

Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.



Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to

the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky

to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is

used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □



Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For

more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together

and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.



Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in. The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too”. What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef’s Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef’s secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional ‘cunucu’ house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff. Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

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**Lessons from our elders:
 Plants and fruits for medicinal use
 (part 2)**

(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet pota-

toes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering



what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris □



Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral

and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all

give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □



Aruba to me

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Episode XCII - 92 - An ancient Amerindian pigment

ORANJESTAD — Worlds ancestral pigment farmers of the Americas cultivated a vegetarian insect that offers a high quality dye for animal, vegetal or synthetic fibers, fabrics and food preparation. This pigment was used in watercolor and oil paints and marketed a commodity. Carmine is a natural, animal coloring applied in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics such as rouge and lipsticks.

The insect that produces this amazing pigment is known as cochineal tick (Coccus-cacti) and they thrive on cactus plants, especially prickly pears or

tuna's (Opuntia spp.).The insect when full grown, gives off a reddish or carmine dye when crushed. For this purposes it is set out on the Nopal cactus, Tuna Spañó and other Opuntia species (Nopalea Cochenille or Dactylopius). The tiny tick thrives by extracting juice of the cactus to mature. Then it is harvested and slightly sundried. One pound (1 lbs.) of color holds about 70.000 ticks. From this, crushed or leached in alcohol, a dye is obtained called Cochineal Red.

By the year 1837 the island's Governor motivated entrepreneurship by assigning special areas of cultivation,



produced plant, the cultivation of the bug began taking over in these experimental plantations. When in 1857 the Aniline dye was commercialized in Germany, the Cochineal commercial value plunged and by the year 1867 local cultivation disappeared completely.

It's important to know that carmine -farming seems to pre date the Inca's and Aztecs- also called cochineal (for the insect from which it is extracted), cochineal extract, crimson lake or carmine lake, natural red 4, C.I. 75470, or E120, is a pigment of a bright-red color obtained from the aluminum complex derived from carmine acid.



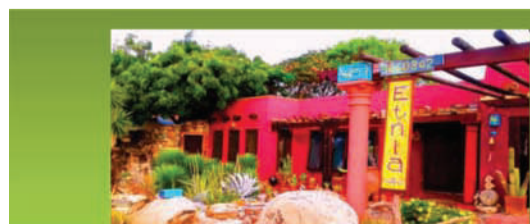
such as Socotoro, Companashi, Mon Plaisir, Sividi-vi, Canashito, Quivarco. In Savanata and Sabana Grandi, Sta. Cruz. In Noord close to Shaba, Cunucu Abao, Pos Abao, Tanki Flip, Tanki Leendert and Ponton. Remarkable was the implementation of a few other local plants in order to improve production. These where the leaves of the Catash or Loki Loki tree (Phyllanthus botryanthus) that were rolled up into a cone shape which locals used to call "cartuchi " or

"peperesh ". The cocoon served as a parasol, umbrella and a wind shade at the same time protecting the tiny animal against the harsh elements. This was pinned in the cactus by using a thorn of a Cadushi (Lemaireocereus griseus).

At Sabana Grandi there used to be some six tomb ruins of a Dutch family with the name of Strakbein, who farmed the Cochineal bug in this area. It was an exhausting work. Soon after the aloe, another in-

Carmine from Cochineal continues to be widely used in the industrial world because it is such a stable, safe and long-lasting additive whose color is little affected by heat or light. This carmine is also used to create the red Skittles candy however since 2009; Skittles have been produced without animal gelatin or shellac.

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. ☐



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna

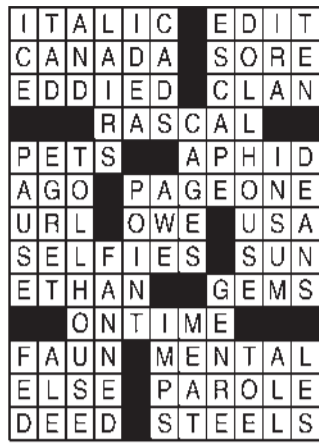


In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

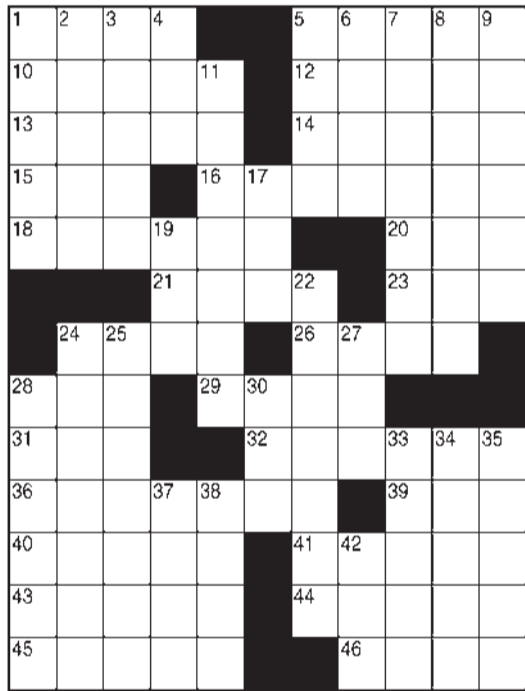
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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 25 Wrong-doer
 27 Singer
 28 Meal
 30 Make a choice
 33 Engine booster
 34 Earlier, quaintly
 35 Metes out
 37 Son of Zeus
 38 Harp's cousin
 42 Cloth scrap



Yesterday's answer



1-18

AXYDLBAAXR
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-18

CRYPTOQUOTE

ARDIR SEGIG VKO DIG, SXRE
 SEDR VKO EDWG. HDPG
 AKHGREXTM KQ XR DTN TGWGI
 YG ADRXAQXGN. — MGKIMG
 SDAEXTMRKT BDIWGI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE NEW YEAR STANDS BEFORE US, LIKE A CHAPTER IN A BOOK, WAITING TO BE WRITTEN. — MELODY BEATTIE

Samsung vies to make AI more mainstream by baking in more of the technology in its new Galaxy phones



The new line-up of Samsung Galaxy S24 phones on display at a preview event in San Jose, Calif. on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
 AP Technology Writer
 SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Smartphones could get much smarter this year as the next wave of artificial intelligence seeps into the devices that accompany people almost everywhere

they go. Samsung, the biggest rival to Apple and its iPhone, provided a glimpse of how smartphones are evolving during a Wednesday unveiling of the next generation of its flagship Galaxy models.

The sales pitch for the Galaxy S24 line-up revolves around an array of new features powered by AI. "We are ushering in a new era where AI is taking center stage," said Drew Blackard, Samsung's vice president of mobile product management. Besides featuring some of Samsung's own work in AI, the Galaxy S24 lineup will be packed with some of the latest advances coming out of Google. The technological improvements will also usher in a higher price for Samsung's top-of-the-line phone, the Galaxy S24 Ultra, which will be priced at \$1,300 a \$100, or 8% increase, from last year's comparable model. The increase mirrors what Apple did with its fanciest model, the iPhone 15 Pro Max, released in September.

Samsung is holding steady on the prices for the Galaxy S24 Plus, which will sell for \$1,000, and the basic Galaxy S24, which will start at \$800.

All the new Galaxy phones, due in stores Jan. 31, will be packed with far more AI than before, including a feature that will provide live translation during phone calls in 13 languages and 17 dialects. The Galaxy S24 lineup will also introduce Google's "Circle To Search" that involves using a digital stylus to circle snippets of text, parts of photos or videos to get instant search results about whatever has been highlighted.

The new Galaxy phones will also enable quick and easy ways to manipulate the appearance and placement of specific parts of pictures taken on the devices' camera. It's a feature that could help people refine their photos while also making it easier to create misleading images. □

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Ava DuVernay's 'Origin' is a powerful, artful, interpretation of 'Caste'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Words like "important" and "vital" are thrown around possibly a little too much in film criticism. It's not that we don't mean it — it's just that sometimes we (ok, I) can get a bit excited. And when watching and reviewing good films in real time, it's impossible to know what is yet to come. Will there be something else that makes that superlative seem silly in retrospect? Often times, yes.

Ava DuVernay's new film "Origin" is that something else. It is a powerful and artistic interpretation of an academic book that was anything but an obvious candidate for a narrative feature. The book in question is "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," in which Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson offers an overriding theory about power and hierarchy and systemic dehumanization in social structures, connecting the Black experience in America to the Dalits of India and Jewish people in Nazi Germany. The New York Times reviewer called it one of the most powerful non-fiction books he'd ever



This image released by Neon shows Jon Bernthal, left, and Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor in a scene from "Origin."

Associated Press

encountered and "the key-note nonfiction book of the American century thus far." That "Caste" was appealing to DuVernay, who has made documentaries like "13th," connecting slavery to mass incarceration of Black men, is not surprising. What's she's done with it is. Instead of rehashing the facts of the book, DuVernay has turned "Caste" into an investigative, fictionalized drama in which

we follow the character Isabel Wilkerson as she puts the pieces together while her life crumbles. With an unconventional structure, in which we are often transported to different stories in different times, in the American South, Nazi Germany and early 20th century India, "Origin" is nonetheless alarmingly effective, a riveting and haunting journey to a kind of enlightenment. Wilkerson is played beauti-

fully by Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, an actor deep enough to engage with the academic and intellectual inquiries of the film, and charismatic enough to make what sounds like homework absorbing. Hers is the kind of 360-degree Black woman that we don't see leading films very often: She is at once confident and full of doubt and vulnerability, accomplished but searching, determined and still

wary. And she's unafraid to pursue her hunch that everyone, civilians and book editors alike, seems to be telling her isn't worth it. This is a character who is surrounded by love when we meet her, with a fairly perfect and supportive husband (Jon Bernthal), her aging mother Ruby (Emily Yancy) and a cousin/confidant in Marion (Niecy Nash-Betts). She is not immediately interested in an assignment about Trayvon Martin, and is a bit stuck knowing that whatever she does, she'll have to give herself over fully to it. In "Origin," a push comes in the form of loss and her research takes on a vital urgency to, not to be too hyperbolic, figure out why everything is rotten before she too leaves the earth. DuVernay takes us into her findings as Wilkerson learns about a group of Harvard students, two Black, two white, who integrate themselves into a segregated Southern community to study it, a Nazi party member who fell in love with a Jewish woman, and an Indian intellectual who rose out of his lowly caste and advocated for Dalit rights.

Steely Dan, R.E.M., Timbaland, Hillary Lindsey and Dean Pitchford get into Songwriters Hall of Fame

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Steely Dan, R.E.M., Timbaland, Hillary Lindsey and Dean Pitchford will be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, an incoming class of musicians who have scaled the heights of country, classic rock, pop, hip-hop and alt-rock.

Steely Dan co-founded by Donald Fagan and the late Walter Becker finally get into the hall despite being a staple of classic rock with songs like "Reelin' in the Years," "Do It Again" and "Hey Nineteen." They went into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2001.

R.E.M. the inducted members are Bill Berry, Peter Buck, Mike Mills and Mi-



Donald Fagan, left, and Walter Becker of Steely Dan pose at New York's S.I.R. Studios on Aug. 5, 1993, before a rehearsal for their upcoming tour. Becker died in 2017.

Associated Press

chael Stipe are behind such alt-rock hits as "Losing My Religion," "Everybody Hurts" and "It's the End

of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)." And Nashville hitmaker Lindsey helped write "Girl Crush"

for Little Big Town and "Jesus, Take the Wheel" for Carrie Underwood. The class of 2024 also includes Pitchford, who helped Kenny Loggins with the megahit "Footloose" and also co-wrote "Fame" and "Holding Out For a Hero," and producer-writer Timbaland, the mastermind behind Justin Timberlake's "SexyBack" and Missy Elliott's "Get Yer Freak On." On the ballot but unlucky this year were Public Enemy, Bryan Adams, George Clinton, Tracy Chapman, Blondie, Heart, The Doobie Brothers and David Gates. Eligible voting members turned in ballots with their choices of three nominees from the songwriter category and three from the

performing-songwriter category. The induction ceremony will be held on June 13 in New York City. Last year's inductees included Snoop Dogg, Gloria Estefan, Sade, Jeff Lynne, Glen Ballard and Teddy Riley. Some of those already in the hall include Carole King, Paul Simon, Billy Joel, Elton John and Bernie Taupin, Brian Wilson, James Taylor, Bruce Springsteen and Tom Petty. The Songwriters Hall of Fame was established in 1969 to honor those creating the popular music. A songwriter with a notable catalog of songs qualifies for induction 20 years after the first commercial release of a song.

Say that to my face: Djokovic challenges a heckler in testy 2nd-round win at Australian Open

By JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Already sick and tired in another early round slog, Novak Djokovic unloaded on a heckler who crossed the line at the Australian Open.

Defending champion Djokovic angrily challenged the spectator to "say that to my face" and gestured to the man to come down onto the Rod Laver Arena court, the venue for 10 of his record 24 Grand Slam titles.

He then went on a roll, winning three straight games from 2-2 in the fourth set before finishing off Alexei Popyrin 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (4) 6-3. The 36-year-old Serb then turned to the crowd again and yelled, pumping his fist to celebrate the victory.

Asked later what triggered his rage, Djokovic responded: "I mean, you don't want to know."

"I was tolerating it for most of the match. At one point I had enough," he said. "He didn't have the courage to come down. That's what I was asking him: 'If you have courage, if you're such a tough man, tough guy, come down and tell it to my face.'"

That didn't happen.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia points to a spectator during his second round match against Alexei Popyrin of Australia at the Australian Open tennis championships at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024.

Djokovic didn't ask for the man to be removed. Stadium security didn't intervene.

Djokovic moved on to the third round, still simmering a little bit about the episode. "I'm not going to sit and say 'it's all good.' It's not good," he said.

"Of course, it upsets me. I'm frustrated. I don't want to be experiencing that, but I have to accept it as it is.

"Sometimes I don't tolerate when somebody crosses the line. That's it."

Djokovic has been dealing with a sore wrist and said after his opening match a four-hour, four-set win over 18-year-old qualifier Dino Prizmic that he hasn't been well. He was struggling against Popyrin, who is ranked 43rd.

So, was it the kind of spark that he needed?

"Look, I don't want to be

in those types of situations. Yeah, I was flat I guess emotionally. Game-wise I was quite flat," he said. "Maybe that was needed for me to be shaken up a bit and start to find the kind of intensity that I needed to have all match."

Last year's losing finalist, Stefanos Tsitsipas, also had a tough time against an Aussie with the crowd behind him on an adjacent court.

Tsitsipas wasted match points in the 10th game of the fourth set and then had to save four set points to force a tiebreaker, which he clinched for a 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-2, 7-6 (4) win over Jordan Thompson.

Women's champion Aryna Sabalenka and U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff avoided the early Day 4 upsets in their draw to advance to the third round, along with 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva.

Three-time major finalist Ons Jabeur lost 6-0, 6-2 in 54 minutes to Andreeva on Rod Laver, and then 2018 champion Caroline Wozniacki also lost to a young Russian on the No. 3 show court.

Two other 16-year-old players lost on center court to highly-ranked players: No. 10 Beatriz Haddad Maia accounted for Alina Korneeva 6-1, 6-2 and Sabalenka overpowered Brenda Fruhvirtova 6-3, 6-2.

Gauff, still a teenager herself, extended her winning streak to nine matches at Grand Slams with a 7-6 (2), 6-2 win over fellow American Caroline Dolehide.

She'll next play Alycia Parks, who beat 2021 U.S. Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez 7-5, 6-4. □

Associated Press

Pascal Siakam getting traded to Pacers from Raptors, AP source says

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

Pascal Siakam is being traded to the Indiana Pacers, a person with knowledge of the agreement said Wednesday, ending a run of nearly eight years with the Toronto Raptors during which he was a two-time All-NBA selection, two-time All-Star and part of the team that won the 2019 NBA title.

Siakam is going to Indiana in exchange for three future first-round draft picks and a pair of players with NBA championship rings guard Bruce Brown and forward

Jordan Nwora said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade was still pending NBA approval.

ESPN, which first reported the full terms of the trade, also said the New Orleans Pelicans were involved and would send Kira Lewis to Toronto as part of the deal. That move would put the Pelicans in position to get below the luxury tax threshold.

It is a huge move for Indiana, the NBA's highest-scoring team this season. The Pacers entered

Wednesday at No. 6 in the Eastern Conference and now get to pair Siakam alongside All-Star guard Tyrese Haliburton.

Siakam is in the final year of his contract, one that pays him nearly \$38 million this season, and becomes eligible this summer to sign a five-year deal that could be worth as much as \$247 million.

Siakam is averaging 22.2 points this season, and in parts of his eight years with the Raptors he averaged 17.4 points and 6.5 rebounds. He was an All-Star in 2020 and 2023. □



Toronto Raptors forward Pascal Siakam (43) goes to the basket as Utah Jazz's Kelly Olynyk, left, and Walker Kessler (24) watch during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

Helmet manufacturer: Mahomes' shattered lid in playoff game 'did its job'

By **DAVE SKRETTA**
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The manufacturer of the helmet that Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes shattered during their AFC wild-card game with Miami says it "did its job" by protecting the league MVP "during a head-to-head impact in unprecedented cold temperatures." The game Saturday night was the fourth-coldest in NFL history. The temperature at kickoff was minus-4 degrees Fahrenheit, and winds gusting to more than 25 mph made the wind chill approach minus-30 during the game.



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass during the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Miami Dolphins Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

"Extreme conditions like those are bound to test the limits of even the highest-performing products," Cer-tor Sports, which makes the VICIS ZERO2 helmet that Mahomes was wearing, said in a statement Wednesday.

Mahomes was scrambling toward the end zone in the second half of the Chiefs' 26-7 victory when he was hit by Dolphins safety De-Shon Elliott. Their helmets clashed and, likely because of the extreme cold that made the outer shell brittle, a fist-sized chunk went flying from Mahomes' helmet just above the facemask covering his left eye.

"They're testing it right now," Mahomes said Wednesday, "but I'm adamant on getting the helmet after. It's something that's cool, I'll be able to keep for a long time. Like they said, it did its job. I was perfectly fine after."

The VICIS ZERO2 uses a proprietary multilayer technology that creates a "deformable outer shell," the company said, and that is wrapped around a stiffer inner shell. The design is similar to that of car bumpers, which might appear to be inexpensive plastic at first glance but are in fact engineered to absorb and disperse energy at the point of impact. The ZERO2 line, which includes specific models for linemen and quarterbacks, held the top five spots in testing this season by the NFL and NFLPA. The helmets also ranked highly in independent evaluations at Virginia Tech.

"It is unusual for a football helmet to crack a shell, but we've had occurrences here in the lab and we generally test at ambient temperature," said Barry Miller, who helps direct the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab. "If you asked a football equipment room manager, you may find a different answer, as they see tons of helmets with plenty of impacts." □



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